

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION





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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Meet an Iowa Birder—David C. Edwards

Hank Zaletel



David C. Edwards

Many of you first became acquainted with Dave when you received your 2001 Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) membership renewal. In the summer of 2000, the treasurer's position was split into two parts: treasurer and registrar. Because of the increase in responsibilities for the treasurer's position, the workload had become burdensome. The treasurer would now be responsible for finances and the registrar for membership.

Dave had already been active in the IOU working behind the scenes assisting editors Jim Dinsmore and Kay Niyo in the mailing of *Iowa Bird Life*. Each issue had to be packaged and sorted by zip code to meet postal regulations for the bulk mailing permit.

Kay knew Dave well, working with him closely in Big Bluestem Audubon (BBA) of Ames leadership. She also knew of Dave's computer skills. She suggested and/or Dave volunteered for the newly created registrar's position.

The IOU Board of Directors approved the position split and approached Dave about becoming the registrar, which he accepted.

As registrar, he maintained the IOU membership database, sent welcoming letters to new members, created and maintained a list of membership levels, and sent reminder letters to members who had not renewed. Dave developed the appropriate databases to produce the lists, rosters, and letters needed for the job. He held the position until 2005 when Doug Hunt from Oskaloosa took over the post.

Dave was born 24 November 1937 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. He was raised and schooled in Racine. He attended the University of Wisconsin, Racine for two years, followed by two years at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee where he graduated with a degree in psychology in 1959.

He attended the University of Iowa for post-graduate work, securing a master's in 1961 and a doctorate in 1962 in experimental psychology. He worked for a year at the University of Missouri doing post-doctoral studies and then accepted a teaching position at Iowa State University, which he held until he retired in 1999 as professor in the Department of Psychology. Dave also served as chair of the department for 10 years.

Dave married Jeanne in 1959. They have two daughters: Jennifer, born in 1964, and Anna, born in 1969.

Dave's first remembrances of the outdoors and nature occurred during his early teens

when he would visit the dairy farm of his aunt and uncle in central Wisconsin. His aunt was a rural, one-room, school teacher. She encouraged his interest in the outdoors and stimulated his interest with the book, *Palmer's Field Book of Natural History*, a copy of which he still owns. His first bird recollection was that of a picture of a Snowy Egret with its elegant plume in an elementary school class.

While in Iowa City, Dave and Jeanne lived in a mobile home. They set up a birdfeeder and put one-way plastic on the window so that he could photograph the birds. He remembers that they got pretty excited when Purple Finches came to their feeder.

Dave does not have a unique bird moment, but he has had several occasions when he has been moved by the sheer numbers of a single species. Once, in a single moment at Sanibel Island in Florida, thousands of Tree Swallows descended upon him. He likened it to a scene from Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds." He has also been awed by the numbers of Sandhill Cranes in Nebraska, darkening the skies with their presence.

In the early 1980s, Jeanne and Dave began attending the BBA meetings in Ames. He held just about every post in the organization including vice president, president, newsletter editor, Christmas Bird Count Compiler, and website designer.

In addition to the BBA website, he also has developed websites for Wyalusing State Park in Wisconsin, a favorite destination, and for a successful local movement to prevent destruction of a riparian woodland. He maintains the website for Iowa Audubon.

Jeanne adopted Mortensen Mounds in Ames, a small prairie area that had been neglected. They encouraged BBA members to help in planting seed, weeding, and burning. Dave erected two signs that alert the public to the prairie area.

Dave considers himself a low-tech birder. He is not a lister. They do have a yard list, including their neighborhood, which is approaching 200 species.

Dave's birding has been limited in recent years due to his hearing loss. He makes up for this loss with his numerous feeders, watering station, and brush pile. The Edwards's house is located in a low density housing area surrounded by woods. Common birds include woodpeckers, Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, and Red-breasted Nuthatch in season.

Perhaps the best bird that has come to his feeder was a *Selasphorus* species hummingbird. Quoting from the fall 2002 field reports in *Iowa Bird Life*: "A female/immature was first noticed on 22 Oct at a feeder in Ames...and lingered until 21 Nov....The bird, videotaped by the homeowner, had all the characteristics of a female Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird" (Hertzel 2003). Dave believes that it was a rufous because that is the most common species vagrant. It remained at his feeder for over a month despite a heavy snowstorm.

In concluding, if you are in the neighborhood when a BBA meeting is scheduled, plan on attending. Each month, Dave still gives a bird identification lesson or a bird quiz. This welcomed presentation is a highlight of most meetings.

LITERATURE CITED

Hertzel, P. 2003. Field reports — fall 2002. *Iowa Bird Life* 73(1):13.

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Field Reports—Summer 2007

James J. Dinsmore

WEATHER

June temperatures averaged 70.8, one degree above normal, and it was the 44th warmest June in 135 years of records. Temperatures fluctuated during the month, but the only widespread hot spell was on 25 and 26 June when many stations reached the 90s. Temperature extremes were 41 on 9 June at Elkader and 95 on 16 June at Keosauqua. Rainfall totaled 3.39 inches, about 1.25 inches below normal and the 32nd driest June on record. Much of western Iowa had less than half of normal rainfall while east-central and southeastern Iowa had some flooding. Extremes were at Sac City with only 0.58 inches of rain and Marengo with 9.87 inches, much of the latter resulting from more than 7 inches that fell on 22 June. Less severe weather occurred this year than is normal in June. However, severe storms occurred in more than 40 counties on the 21st, and again in 12 counties on the 22nd when tornadoes ripped across parts of northwestern Warren County.

July temperatures averaged 74.2, about 0.4 degrees above normal, and it was the 66th warmest July on record. Few temperature extremes were experienced with a high of 98 on 7, 8, and 17 July in Sioux City, Ankeny, and Sioux Center and a low of 46 on 13 and 20 July at several stations. Rainfall averaged 3.38 inches, 0.87 inches below normal and the 60th driest July on record. In general, it was dry in much of the western two-thirds of Iowa with Hawarden receiving no rainfall and several other northwestern Iowa stations having excessive drought. Two heavy rain events occurred in eastern Iowa. Parts of east-central Iowa received 4–5 inches of rain on 3–4 July, and southeastern Allamakee and northeastern Clayton counties received 5–10 inches of rain on 17–18 July. Other than some high winds on the night of 18 July, there was little severe weather during the month.

BIRDS OF SUMMER

With the fairly mild weather and lack of much flooding or severe storms, conditions for nesting seemed to be good this summer. As I write this report, Congress is working on a new Farm Bill that will probably have a major effect on breeding habitat, especially grasslands, for a number of Iowa species. Since the mid-1980s, Iowa's birds have benefited from a variety of federal programs, especially the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP),



James J. Dinsmore

which encouraged landowners to convert cropland to a variety of other cover types. In 1993–1994, Iowa had about 2.2 million acres enrolled in CRP. But that coverage has decreased to slightly less than 2 million acres, about a quarter of it in narrow buffer strips that are less useful to many grassland birds. Funds for CRP and other programs have gradually eroded and now, as many long-term contracts for that program expire, there is the threat that hundreds of thousands of acres of grasslands will disappear, especially from southern Iowa.

Breeding Species

The biggest news among breeding species was the discovery of an active American White Pelican colony. Iowa's first documented successful nesting for this species, surprisingly, was on a spoil island in the Mississippi River near Clinton. Other good nesting finds included broods of Ruffed Grouse in southern Iowa, Red-necked Grebe, Black-and-white Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, and three broods of Red-breasted Nuthatch. A pair of Pine Warblers at the site where they nested in 2004 suggested they may have tried to nest again this summer. Among reintroduced species, Trumpeter Swan, Osprey, and Peregrine Falcon all had good years with record productivity for all three. In contrast, there were few sightings of Greater Prairie-Chicken and none of Sharp-tailed Grouse, suggesting that the small populations of both species may be in trouble.

Among some of the species of conservation concern, Bald Eagles continued to occupy new areas as their breeding population continued to increase. Because of this range-wide population increase, Bald Eagle was removed from the Federal Endangered Species List on 4 July 2007. Two other federally listed species did fairly well. Least Terns apparently had a good year at Council Bluffs, and Piping Plovers had an average year there and near Sioux City, their other Iowa nesting site.

Several woodland and grassland species seemed to be holding their own. Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawk nests in Page and Poweshiek counties, respectively, were at new sites. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, and several other woodland species continued to be found in suitable habitat throughout the state. In contrast, Black-billed Cuckoos were hard to find. Widespread grassland species like Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Bobolink were found by most who looked for them, although the latter two were scarce in northeastern Iowa. Henslow's Sparrow reports dropped a bit from 2006, but this species still seems to be found over much of Iowa. As in recent years, there were several reports of Clay-colored Sparrow in northern Iowa where there seems to be a small nesting population.

Migrants

Spring migration was largely over by the end of May. Among the passerines, only a few flycatchers, warblers, and a thrush lingered into June, fewer than most summers. Likewise, other than the usual late waterfowl, shorebirds, and Black Terns, there was little of note among the nonpasserines. One of the most interesting sightings of the season was a group of Broad-winged Hawks on 7 June in Emmet County that appeared to be moving north. I am not aware of any previous such report.

The migration of southbound birds was fairly typical; a few shorebirds had arrived by the end of June, and by mid-July, the migration of shorebirds, Ring-billed Gulls, and American White Pelicans was well underway. With two Red-breasted Nuthatches seen in late July in central Iowa, one wonders if this is going to be an invasion year.

Unusual Species

Three Accidental (Neotropic Cormorant, Rufous Hummingbird, Painted Bunting) and three Casual (California Gull, White-winged Dove, Prairie Warbler) species were reported, about typical for summer. Probably the biggest event in this department was the appearance of a Neotropic Cormorant in early June in Appanoose County. The bird stayed most of the month and often was perched near a Double-crested Cormorant, allowing Iowa birders a chance to compare these two sometimes confusing species. Both the Prairie Warbler and Painted Bunting that reappeared in early May at sites where they were found in 2006 stayed at least until mid-June, allowing numerous birders a chance to see them. Other notable finds were less cooperative; a California Gull at Saylorville Reservoir and White-winged Dove in Ida County were one-day wonders and a Rufous Hummingbird in Boone County stayed for only two. Other good finds for the summer included Common Golden-eye, Western Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black-headed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Black-billed Magpie, Bewick's Wren, and Pine Warbler.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species, * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **A** = area; **alt** = alternate (plumage); **BCA** = Bird Conservation Area; **Croton Unit** = Croton Unit, Shimek SF; **Donnellson Unit** = Donnellson Unit, Shimek SF; **L** = Lake; **M** = marsh; **m.ob.** = many observers; **NA** = nature area; **NWR** = national wildlife refuge; **P** = park; **ph** = photo; **Pre** = preserve; **R** = river; **RA** = recreation area; **Res** = reservoir; **SF** = state forest; **Sl** = slough; **SP** = state park; **Thousand Acre Unit** = Thousand Acre Unit, Stephens SF; **WA** = wildlife area; **Whitebreast Unit** = Whitebreast Unit, Stephens SF; **WMA** = Wildlife Management Area; **WPA** = waterfowl production area; **yg** = young.

Key to maps: light shading = species present in county, dark shading = evidence of nesting reported (nest, brood, etc.).

Greater White-fronted Goose: All: 2 on 9 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Snow Goose: As many as 5 were found in *Clay, Dickinson, Greene, Palo Alto, Ringgold, Story, Warren*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob.), typical of the stragglers that summer in Iowa.

Mute Swan: All: 1 on 19 Jul at Heron Bend A *Lee* (SJD).

Trumpeter Swan: Swans had another good year with 27 of 29 nests hatching young and producing a total of 88 cygnets (DH).

Gadwall: One 2 Jun at Banner WA *Warren* (JG) was the southernmost report. Elsewhere, 1 or 2 were in *Cerro Gordo, Emmet, Greene, Pottawattamie*, and *Winnebago* (RGo, MCK, SJD, JG, EBe, DC).

American Wigeon: All: a pair 2–4 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 2 on 8 Jun at Four Mile Lake WPA *Emmet* (MCK), and 1 on 9 Jun at Lower Morse L *Wright* (SSP).

Blue-winged Teal: Near the s edge of this species' nesting range, broods were

found at Chichaqua WA (DK), Errington M (BE), and Polk City WA (SJD), all in *Polk*.

Northern Shoveler: A brood in June at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ) was the only indication of nesting. Other reports were a male 2–4 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 2 males 8 Jun at Four Mile Lake WPA *Emmet* (MCK), and 1 or 2 birds 29 Jun, 12 Jul at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC).

Northern Pintail: All: Broods 24 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK) and 22 Jul at Goose L *Kossuth* (MCK).

Green-winged Teal: All reports were from cen Iowa: 1–3 from 9–13 Jun in *Polk* and *Story* (BE, DTh, HZ) and 2 on 31 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Canvasback: All: 1 on 4 Jun at Welch Lake WPA *Dickinson* (LAS), a female 12 Jun at Brown's Sl *Lucas* (MPr), and a male 25 Jun, 7 Jul at the n end of Spirit L *Dickinson* (MPr, ETH).

Redhead: All: 1 on 20 Jun at Grovers L *Dickinson* (SJD) and a brood 30 Jun at Spring Run WA *Dickinson* (LAS).

Ring-necked Duck: Singles 2, 12 Jun at Banner WA *Warren* (JG, MPr) and 9 Jun at Badger Creek RA *Madison* (JB) were south of this species usual range. From 1–4 were found in June in *Dickinson*, *Emmet*, *Hancock*, and *Kossuth* (LAS, MPr, MCK) where it is more likely to linger.

Lesser Scaup: All: Singles 4 Jun at Grovers L *Dickinson* (LAS) and 7 Jul at the MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (JG).

Common Goldeneye: All: A male 14 Jun in nw *Marshall* (MPr) and 1 on 28 Jul at the n end of Spirit L *Dickinson* (ETH) are the sixth and seventh summer records.

Hooded Merganser: Broods were noted near Davis City *Decatur* (JRL), Kettleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (SJD), Amana L *Iowa* (BSc), Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), Colyn A *Lucas* (AB), Errington M *Polk* (BE),

Chichaqua WA *Polk* (DK), Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC), and Port Neal *Woodbury* (POR).

Ruddy Duck: Lingering migrants included 1–3 in *Marshall*, *Story*, and *Warren* 1–14 Jun (MPr, HZ, WO, JG). Thirteen adults 24 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), three singles 26 Jun in *Dickinson* (MPr), and a brood 7 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (MPr, PH) were the other reports.

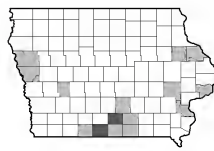
Gray Partridge: A few seen in n-cen Iowa and east to *Black Hawk* (BSc, m.ob.) were in areas where this species is expected. Though fairly common, it is easy to miss in the open farmlands it typically occupies.

Ruffed Grouse: A female with 2 yg 5 Jun at Whitebreast Unit *Lucas* (SSP) is one of the few confirmations of nesting at that site. One 19 Jun at Coon Creek WA *Winneshiek* (DK) was within its established range.

Sharp-tailed Grouse: There were no reports of sharp-taileds this spring or summer, and it is not clear if any still survive in Iowa (Ed Weiner fide JJD).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: All: 3 on 15 Jul at Kellerton BCA (SSP). In addition to birds at the Kellerton BCA lek *Ringgold* this spring (Kenne 2007), birds were seen in *Decatur* (2 males) and *Wayne* (1 male) (Chad Paup fide JJD).

Northern Bobwhite: Reported from 15 counties, mostly in s Iowa (m.ob.) but north to *Dubuque* (CLW) and *Delaware* (BSc) in the east and *Woodbury* (GLV) in the west. Brees thought it was common in s-cen Iowa.



Common Loon: All: Singles 3 Jun at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), 5 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 20, 29 Jun near Muscatine *Muscatine* (NPB), and 7 Jul at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ETH).

Pied-billed Grebe: A count of 109 on

14 Jul at Grovers L *Dickinson* (LAS) is high for mid-summer. Broods were reported at Errington M *Polk* (BE) and Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC).

Red-necked Grebe: Most reports were from Grovers L *Dickinson* where 3 were found 4 Jun (LAS), 1 on 20 Jun (SJD) and 2 pairs, one with 2 downy young 14 Jul (LAS). This is the first report of nesting since 2003 and the 4th for Iowa. One 4 Jun at nearby Welch L *Dickinson* (LAS) was the only other report.

Eared Grebe: All: 1 on 5 Jun at Banner WA *Warren* (SSP).

Western Grebe: All: 1 on 2 Jun at Mallard M *Cerro Gordo* (CJE, PH), 2 on 2–12 Jun at Banner WA *Warren* (JG, SSP, JB, MPr), 2 on 4 Jun at Grovers L *Dickinson* (LAS), and 1 on 9 Jun in Spencer Clay (LAS).

American White Pelican: After several unsuccessful nesting attempts in recent years, a colony was found in mid-June on two Mississippi R spoil islands in *Clinton*. No nest count was made but an estimated 200 young fledged (Russell Engelke-ph, Mike Griffin fide BEh). This is the first documented successful nesting by pelicans in Iowa. As usual, a few summering birds were found in June and early July in *Dickinson*, *Emmet*, *Greene*, *Jasper*, *Kossuth*, *Polk*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob.). The first big push of migrants brought 1,060 to Runnells WA *Marion* 12 Jul (JG). By the end of July, large flocks were at three of the large reservoirs; 1,000 on 29 Jul at Coralville Res *Johnson* (DP), 1,500 at Pinchey Bottoms *Marion*, and 2,900 at Saylorville Res *Polk*, both on 30 Jul (AB).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT: One found 6 Jun at Sedan WA *Appanoose* was last reported 29 Jun (*TNJ, *CRE, *RLC, *KA, *MPr, *JSc, *CJC, m.ob.). This is Iowa's third record.

Double-crested Cormorant: Two

colonies were reported. In mid-June, more than 500 nests were found on two Mississippi R spoil islands in *Clinton* with nesting American White Pelicans (Mike Griffin fide BEh, Russell Engelke fide JJD), and 2 nests (and 30 adults) were on a small pond near Crystal Lake *Hancock* 30 Jun (RGo, PH). The latter is the first report of nesting from that site. Elsewhere, cormorants were found in *Boone*, *Dallas*, *Emmet*, *Johnson*, and *Polk* (WO, BE, MPr, DP, SJD) with 116 on 14 Jul at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (JG) the most.

American Bittern: 1 or 2 were found at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD), Snake Creek M *Greene* (SSP), Mallard WPA *Kossuth* (MCK), Lewis and Clark SP *Monona* (MPr), and Errington M *Polk* (BE). Five 29 Jul at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV) was the most for any site.

Least Bittern: 1 or 2 were found in 12 counties, mainly in n Iowa but south to *Louisa* (m.ob.). Two on 1 Jul near Hopkinton seem to be a first for *Delaware* (BSc).

Great Blue Heron: Post-breeding concentrations included 88 on 22 Jul at Polk City WA *Polk* (SJD) and 143 on 31 Jul at Runnells WA *Marion* (AB).

Great Egret: Post-breeding concentrations peaked at 136 on 26 Jul at Runnells WA *Marion* (AB) and 268 on 31 Jul at Pinchey Bottoms *Marion* (AB).

Snowy Egret: All: singles 12 Jul in *Washington* (SSP) and 20 Jul at Port Louisa NWR *Lousia* (SJD).

Cattle Egret: All: 1 on 19 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ).

Green Heron: From 1–3 were found in *Audubon*, *Dickinson*, *Jones*, *Lucas*, *Marshall*, *Monona*, *Van Buren*, *Warren* and *Winneshiek* (SSP, MPr, KLP, TLu, JG, DC). Three nests at Ada Hayden P *Story* failed (WO).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: From 1–6 were found in *Dickinson*, *Greene*, *Johnson*, *Kossuth*, *Louisa*, *Woodbury*, and *Worth*

(Eth, JG, DP, MCK, SSP, GLV). No one mentioned any evidence of nesting.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Most reports were from the Colyn A *Lucas* where up to 3 were found from 10–30 Jun (JG, RIA, PHA, AB, DP, BSc, WO). Singles were at Blue Flag M *Warren* 3 Jun (JG) and Greenville M *Lucas* 10 Jun (JG).

Turkey Vulture: The most reported was 72 on 3 Jun in *Cherokee* (DBi). A nest in a hollow tree was found 1 Jun near Moorland *Webster* (Levi Keeton fide SJD).

Osprey: Nine nests were active, 5 of which were successful and fledged 12 young. Successful nests were at Don Williams L *Boone* (3 yg), Jester P *Polk* (1 yg), and L Macbride *Johnson* (3 nests: 3, 3, and 2 yg). Unsuccessful nests were at Cedar Falls, Rathbun Res, and *Linn* (2 nests). This year 26 young Osprey were released at 5 sites (Spirit Lake, 6; Whiterock Conservancy *Guthrie*, 5; Red Rock, 4; Clear Lake, 5; Wickiup Hill *Linn*, 6) (PSc). Elsewhere, singles were found in *Keokuk* (SSP), *Warren* (SSP), and *Winneshiek* (DC).

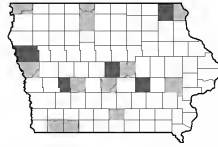
Mississippi Kite: All: 1 on 10 Jun in Ottumwa *Wapello* (CRE, DP), and 1 or 2 seen repeatedly from 1–29 Jul in Des Moines *Polk* (RIC, AB, RIA, PHA, WO).

Bald Eagle: Iowa's Bald Eagle nesting population continues to increase and now totals about 210 nests in 82 counties, up from 200 and 78 last year. New counties added to the list are *Cedar*, *Greene*, *Hancock*, and *Lee* (BEh, DCH). Within a few years, most counties in Iowa probably will have at least one nest.

Northern Harrier: A nest near Corn-ing *Adams* fledged 2 yg (Ryan Marquardt fide SJD), and 2 yg were seen foraging with 2 adults 23 Jul at Panicum Prairie *Worth* (CJF). Other reports, all singles, were in July in *Kossuth*, *Lyon*, and *Winneshiek* (MCK, BJU, DC).

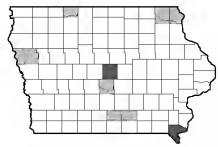
Sharp-shinned Hawk: One 31 Jul in Urbandale *Polk* (RIC-details) adds to the handful of summer reports of this common migrant and wintering species.

Cooper's Hawk: Reported from 16 counties scattered across most of Iowa. Active nests were noted in *Audubon* (SSP), *Poweshiek* (DK), *Story* (SSP), *Winneshiek* (3 nests, DC), and *Woodbury* (GLV).



Red-shouldered Hawk: Reports of confirmed nesting came from Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (SSP) and Fox Forest WA *Poweshiek* (DK), the latter a first. Other reports that were probably at nest sites were from the Wapsi River Greenbelt *Bremer*, Lucas Unit, Stephens SF *Lucas*, Whitebreast Unit *Lucas*, Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe*, and Swamp White Oak Pre *Muscatine* (all SSP).

Broad-winged Hawk: Reported from 9 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob.). Active nests were found in Donnellson Unit *Lee* (SSP), and Brookside P, Ames *Story* (SSP). A group of 11 seen 7 Jun over High L *Emmet* seemed to form a kettle, suggesting very late migrants (HWW).



Peregrine Falcon: Eleven nests were active, 8 of which were successful and fledged 23 young. Successful nests were at Waukon Junction *Allamakee* (2 yg), Clinton (1 yg), Davenport (4 yg), *Louisa* (4 yg), Burlington (1 yg), Ottumwa (2 yg), Des Moines (4 yg), and Cedar Rapids (5 yg). Nests at Lansing *Allamakee* and Davenport were unsuccessful and another nest in Davenport was probably unsuccessful (PSc). The Waukon Junction nest was on a natural cliff where workers have hoped to get the birds established. Overall it was a good year for nesting peregrines in Iowa.

Virginia Rail: Due to the efforts of two diligent workers, most reports came from *Cerro Gordo*, *Winnebago*, and *Worth* (RGo, PH). Elsewhere singles were found in *Jackson* (CLW) and *Story* (DJN).

Sora: All: Singles 3 Jun at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), 16, 22 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and 20 Jul at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (SJD).

Common Moorhen: All: 1 from 13 Jun–19 Jul at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (RGo, PH, CJF), 1 on 7 Jul at Beaver Valley Wetlands *Dallas* (JG), 1 or 2 on 25 Jun, 7 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (MPr, PH), and 2 on 28 Jul at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC).

American Coot: A nest at Errington M *Polk* (BE) was at the south edge of this species' usual range.

Sandhill Crane: Broods were noted near New Albin *Allamakee* (MPr) and Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC).

American Golden-Plover: All: singles 17 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ) and 30 Jun at Hanlontown Sl *Worth* (RGo).

Semipalmated Plover: Last: 1 on 9 Jun near Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS). First: 1 on 12 Jul at Polk City WA *Polk* (SJD). Most: 10 on 29 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP).

Piping Plover: On 14 Jul, 4 adults and 9 yg were at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (EBE). On 27 Jun, 3 adults and 3 yg were at Port Neal *Woodbury* (POR), the other traditional nesting site.

Killdeer: The largest post-breeding concentrations were 260 on 11 Jul at Four Mile Lake WPA *Emmet* (MCK) and 291 on 21 Jul at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (SJD).

American Avocet: The 11 on 11 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP) were a bit early. Others were 1 on 21 Jul at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (EBE) and 1 on 29 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (WO).

Spotted Sandpiper: The 18 including several juveniles 8 Jul at Saylorville Res

Polk (JB) was a fairly high count for this species.

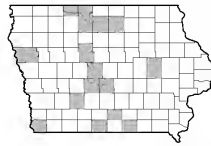
Solitary Sandpiper: First: 2 at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and 1 at Burr Oak *Winneshiek* (DC), both on 6 Jul. Most: 42 on 10 Jul at Goose L *Kossuth* (MCK), and 45 on 21 Jul at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (SJD).

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 1 on 9 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Most: 3 on 12 Jul at New L *Woodbury* (GLV). Few were reported.

Willet: All: 1 on 8 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, BE, JB, RIA, PHA) and 1 on 9, 27 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: 3 at Goose L *Kossuth* (MCK) and 4 at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), both on 27 Jun. Most: 250 on 29 Jul at Pinchey Bottoms *Marion* (JG).

Upland Sandpiper: From 1–7 were found in 15 counties, mainly in the western two-thirds of Iowa (m.ob.).



Marbled Godwit: All: 1 on 7 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG).

Ruddy Turnstone: All: 1 alt adult 29, 30 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB, AB).

Sanderling: All: 1 alt adult 19 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 2 on 21 Jul at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (EBE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last: 22 on 8 Jun at Four Mile Lake WPA *Emmet* (MCK). First: 1 on 14 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP). Most: 14 on 22 Jul at Diamond Lake WA *Dickinson* (ETh). One summered at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (EBE).

Least Sandpiper: First: 5 on 27 Jun at Goose L *Kossuth* (MCK). Most: 215 on 20 Jul at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (SJD).

White-rumped Sandpiper: All: 26 on 8 Jun at Four Mile Lake WPA *Emmet* (MCK), 3 on 9 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story*

(WO), and 1 on 9 Jun at Errington M *Polk* (BE).

Baird's Sandpiper: All: 1 on 22 Jul at Polk City WA *Polk* (SJD).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: 4 on 8 Jun at Four Mile Lake WPA *Emmet* (MCK). First: 1 on 7 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Most: 1,050 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 1,300 at Pinchey Bottoms *Marion* (AB), both 30 Jul.

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 1 on 7 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (JG). Most: 41 on 27 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: All: 1 on 14 Jul at Runnells WA *Warren* (JG-details) was Iowa's second earliest. At Saylorville Res *Polk*, 32 on 29 Jul (BE) and 54 on 31 Jul (AB) were fairly high counts for cen Iowa.

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 2 on 8 Jul at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC). Most: 5 on 19 Jul at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (SJD) and 5 on 22 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB).

American Woodcock: More reports than any previous summer. Singles were found 8 Jun at Whitebreast Unit *Lucas* (JG, JB), 9 Jun at Hanlontown Sl *Worth* (SSP), and 15 Jun at Cedar Creek Unit, Stephens SF *Lucas* (SSP). Three were at Blue Flag M *Warren* 15 Jul (JG).

Wilson's Phalarope: All: 5 on 8 Jun at Four Mile Lake WPA *Emmet* (MCK) and 2 on 18 Jun at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV) were suggestive of nesting birds. Two 20 Jul at Runnells WA *Warren* (JG), 1 on 22 Jul at Polk City WA *Polk* (SJD), and 1 on 30 Jul at Pinchey Bottoms *Marion* (AB) were probably migrants.

Red-necked Phalarope: All: 1 on 12 Jul at Crystal L *Hancock* (MHB-ph) was Iowa's record earliest.

Franklin's Gull: Probable summering birds included 3 on 8 Jun at Four Mile Lake WPA *Emmet* (MCK), 87 on 20 Jun at the Spirit Lake landfill *Dickinson* (SJD), 1 on 27

Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), 1 on 9 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (PHA, RIA), and 1 on 26 Jul near Sioux City *Woodbury* (MPr). The 30 on 15 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB) were probably southbound; birds continued to be reported there through the end of July with 80 on 19 Jul (AB) the most.

Black-headed Gull: 1 reappeared 28 Jul at its usual post at the north end of Spirit L *Dickinson* (*ETH).

Bonaparte's Gull: All: 1 on 29 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP).

Ring-billed Gull: Iowa's only nesting colony at Meinking M *Dickinson* had 160 adults and at least 53 young 20 Jun (SJD). Summering birds, mostly singles, were found in June and early July in *Cerro Gordo*, *Emmet*, *Kossuth*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Story* (RGo, MCK, JG, EBe, WO). The first migrants were 89 on 12 Jul at Polk City WA *Polk* (SJD). Gull numbers at Saylorville Res *Polk* increased to 480 on 21 Jul (AB) and 509 on 22 Jul (SJD). On 31 Jul, 1,160 were at Runnells WA *Marion* (AB).

CALIFORNIA GULL: All: An alt adult 20 Jun at Meinking M *Dickinson* (*SJD) is the first summer report for Iowa.

Herring Gull: All: An adult 26 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG).

Least Tern: On 14 Jul, 20 birds, including 6 yg and 2 active nests, were at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (EBe).

Caspian Tern: 1 on 2 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS) was the last spring bird. From 1–7 were found from 14–22 Jul in two areas, on or near the Mississippi R in *Lee* and *Louisa* (SJD, JG) and at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB, JG, AB, SJD).

Black Tern: Birds carrying food and showing territorial behavior suggested that terns were nesting at several sites in n Iowa. These included 50 birds at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (RGo, PH) and several at Spring Run

WA *Dickinson* (LAS), both 30 Jun, and 15 on 7 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (PH). Birds in early June in *Boone*, *Story*, *Winneshiek*, and *Woodbury* (JB, HZ, WO, DC, GLV) were probably late migrants and likewise birds in *Lee*, *Polk*, and *Warren* in mid/late July (SJD, JG) were probably southbound.

Forster's Tern: The only evidence of breeding was 4 yg being attended by 4 adults 15 Jul at Diamond L *Dickinson* (MHB). The first migrant noted was 1 on 11 Jul at Coralville Res *Johnson* (DP). Most other reports were from Saylorville Res *Polk* with 20 on 20 Jul (AB) the most.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Most reports were from established sites. One near Iowa City *Johnson* (CRE) was the only one that seemed to be from a new location.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: One 26 Jun at Ida Grove *Ida* (*DPo-ph) adds to the growing list of records of this species for Iowa. This is the fourth consecutive summer one has been found.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: As in recent years, this species was reported far more commonly than Black-billed Cuckoo with reports of up to seven birds from 28 counties covering most of the state (m.ob.).

Black-billed Cuckoo: From 1–3 were found in 12 counties scattered across all but the western third of Iowa (m.ob.). The only evidence of nesting was at Swamp White Oak Pre *Muscatine* (SSP).

Barn Owl: None were reported during summer (BEh).

Chuck-will's-widow: Up to 3 were found 8–23 Jun in Whitebreast Unit *Lucas* (JB, JG, *SSP-tape, m.ob.). No one reported any from the traditional spot near Waubonsie SP *Fremont*.

Whip-poor-will: Most were heard at Whitebreast Unit *Lucas* where birders were

seeking the previous species (JB, JG, m.ob.). Other reports came from established sites in *Boone*, *Decatur*, *Warren*, and *Woodbury* (LGD, JRL, SSP, GLV).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: From 1–7 were found in 13 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob.).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: An adult male made a brief appearance 27, 28 Jul near Ledges SP *Boone* (*LGD-ph), Iowa's first since 2000 and the second earliest.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Found in 26 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob.), most reports were of 1–4 individuals. Counts of 14 in *Guthrie* and 12 in *Audubon* (SSP) were the most.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: All: 1 on 3 Jul in *Lyon* (BJU).

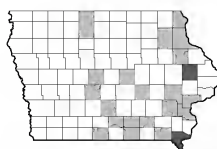
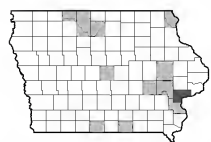
Pileated Woodpecker: A few were reported in *Allamakee*, *Boone*, *Decatur*, *Jackson*, *Jones*, *Lee*, and *Lucas* (MPr, SSP, KLP, JRL). Most probably represent nesting birds.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: All: 3 on 2 Jun at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (PH) and 1 on 8 Jun at Ryan Lake WA *Emmet* (MCK).

Acadian Flycatcher: Reported from 22 counties mainly in the se half of Iowa (m.ob.). The 24 on 22 Jul at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (KLP, SSP) and 16 on 3 Jul at Brinton Timber *Washington* (SSP) were by far the most reported. Evidence of nesting was found at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (SSP) and Indian Bluffs WMA *Jones* (KLP, SSP).

Alder Flycatcher: Nine reports. Most: 4 on 2 Jun at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (PH). Last: 1 on 17 Jun [second latest] along the Des Moines R in Cass Twp *Boone* (WO).

Willow Flycatcher: From 1–7 were found in 17 counties, mostly in the n half

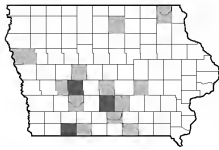


of the state (m.ob.) but south to *Appanoose* (DP).

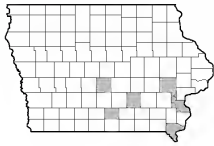
Least Flycatcher: Singles 2 Jun near Rutland *Humboldt* (SSP), 2 Jun at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (PH), and 3 Jun at Devine WA *Kossuth* (MCK) were likely late migrants. One heard 26 Jun at Nelson Tract *Lyon* (MPr) and 28 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) are harder to categorize although the latter was probably an early migrant.

Western Kingbird: Away from w Iowa where it is expected, 1 on 15 Jul near Blockton *Taylor* (SSP) was a bit out of range. I received only a few reports from *Polk* (JG, DK, DP) where a growing population has become established in recent years.

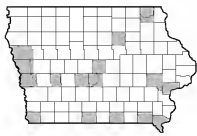
Loggerhead Shrike: Reported from 15 counties mainly in the s half of the state (m.ob.). Evidence of nesting was reported from *Guthrie*, *Taylor*, and *Warren* (SSP).



White-eyed Vireo: Up to 4 were found in 6 counties, mostly in se Iowa but north to *Polk* (m.ob.). No one mentioned any evidence of nesting.



Bell's Vireo: Bell's Vireos were found in 16 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob.). *Woodbury* had the most with 16 at Brown's Lake and 12 at Sioux City Prairie 5 Jun (GLV). No one mentioned evidence of nesting.



Yellow-throated Vireo: Found in 36 counties scattered across most of Iowa, most counts were of only a few individuals (m.ob.). Twelve at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (SSP, KLP) was the most.

Black-billed Magpie: One 22 Jun at Broken Ridge Pre *Plymouth* (*DTh) was

the only report. No evidence of nesting was noted (Scott Moats fide JJD).

Purple Martin: Most: 123 on 22 Jul at a traditional migration roost at Jester P *Polk* (BE).

Tree Swallow: The 800 on 14 Jul at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD) was a fairly high mid-July count for this species.

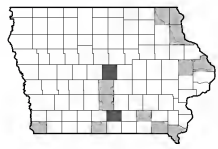
Cliff Swallow: Most: 3,675 on 22 Jul at Polk City WA *Polk* (SJD).

Tufted Titmouse: Reported from 11 counties in e and s-cen Iowa (m.ob.). Most reports were of family groups, indicating recent breeding.



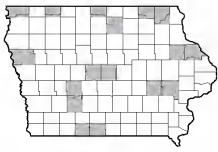
Red-breasted Nuthatch: It was a banner summer for nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches. Broods found 3 Jun near Ames *Story* (James Pease fide SJD), 4 Jul at Martin A *Cherokee* (LAS), and 5 Jul at Thorpe P *Winnebago* (LSR) seem to constitute the fourth, fifth, and sixth nesting records for Iowa. In all cases, at least one fledgling was seen being fed by adults. A pair throughout June and July at L Hendricks *Howard* (Mary Jo Hartogh fide AMJ) may have been breeding. The status of singles 25 Jul at Adel *Dallas* (TLA) and 27 Jul in Ames *Story* (DJN) was not determined.

Carolina Wren: From 1–5 were found in 14 counties in the se half of Iowa (m.ob.). Evidence of nesting was noted from *Lucas* (SSP) and *Story* (Dave Edwards fide HZ).



Bewick's Wren: All: 1 on 13 Jun at the traditional junkyard near Argyle *Lee* (MPr).

Sedge Wren: This species seemed to be fairly common with reports from 17 counties (m.ob.). Although generally more common in n Iowa, reports of 13 on 24 Jul near Davis City *Decatur* (JRL) and 27 on 15



Jul at Kellerton BCA *Ringgold* (SSP) suggest it is at least locally common south to the Missouri border.

Marsh Wren: 6 on 20 Jul at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (SJD) is south of where this species is normally found in Iowa.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Singles 20 Jun at Smith WA *Kossuth* (MCK) and 27 Jun at Burt L *Kossuth* (MCK) were near the edge of this species usual summer range.

Veery: From 1–5 were found in *Allamakee*, *Boone*, *Clayton*, *Hancock*, and *Johnson* (m.ob.), all sites with fairly large wooded tracts. Nine at Backbone SP *DelaWare* (SSP) were the most from any site. Evidence of nesting was reported from Holst SF *Boone* (SSP).

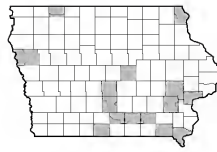
Swainson's Thrush: All: 1 on 1 Jun at Parker Woods, Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

Wood Thrush: Birds were found in 35 counties across much of Iowa (m.ob.). The 13 on 3 Jul at Brinton Timber *Washington* (SSP) were the most found at any site. Evidence of nesting was reported from Indian Bluffs WMA *Jones* (SSP, KLP) and Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (SSP).

Northern Mockingbird: A few were reported from 12 counties, mostly in s Iowa, but north to include reports from *Lyon* (BJU) and *Cherokee* (LAS) in nw Iowa. Evidence of nesting was noted near Davis City *Decatur* (JRL) and in *Fremont* (KDy).

Blue-winged Warbler: From 1–8 were found in *Allmakee*, *Jackson*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Linn*, *Lucas*, and *Winneshiek*, all in e Iowa (m.ob.). The only evidence of nesting was from Ozark WA *Jackson* (SSP).

Northern Parula: Other than birds



at Iowa Lakeside Lab *Dickinson* (NPB) and Stone SP *Woodbury* (TLu, GLV), all reports were from the se

half of Iowa. No one reported evidence of nesting.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: All: A male 4 Jun at Whitebreast Unit *Lucas* (SSP) and 2 in Yellow River SF *Allamakee* throughout the period (DK).

Blackburnian Warbler: All: A male 4 Jun at Whitebreast Unit *Lucas* (SSP) was a late migrant.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Up to 3 were found in *Clayton*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Polk*, *Van Buren*, and *Washington* (m.ob.), all counties where this species is expected.

Pine Warbler: All: A pair 7 Jul at the Donnellson Unit *Lee* (JWR, POR) and a male there 11 Jul (BSc) were near where a brood was found in 2004.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: A male that arrived in early May (Kenne 2007) continued to sing at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* 15, 20 Jun (BSc, DR).

Cerulean Warbler: A few were found in 9 counties, all in e and s Iowa where it is generally found. The only evidence of nesting was at Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (SSP) and Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (KLP, SSP).

Black-and-white Warbler: All: A female with a fledgling 23 Jun at Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (SSP) and a male 3 Jul at Brinton Timber *Washington* (SSP). The former is the first confirmed nesting for Iowa since a young bird was found at the same area in 2002.

American Redstart: Reported from 26 counties spread across much of Iowa (m.ob.). Evidence of nesting was reported

from Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (KLP, SSP), near Ledges SP *Boone* (LGD), and Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (SSP).

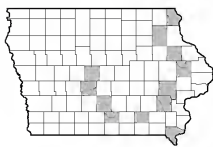
Prothonotary Warbler: One or 2 were found in *Allamakee*, *Humboldt*, *Kossuth*, *Lucas*, and *Polk* (m.ob.). Surprisingly, most reports were from along the Des Moines R.

Worm-eating Warbler: All: 1 on 2 Jun at Coralville Res *Johnson* (CRE), 5 including an adult with 2 yg 25 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (RIC), 1 on 2 Jul at Pioneer Ridge NA *Wapello* (SSP), and 1 on 12, 14 Jul at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (SSP, DP).

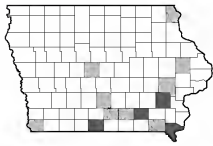
Ovenbird: Reported from 18 counties mainly in e and cen Iowa (m.ob.) but including *Lyon* (BJU) and *Sioux* (MPr) in nw Iowa. Evidence of nesting was reported at Holst SF *Boone*, Donnellson Unit *Lee*, Whitebreast Unit *Lucas*, Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe*, and Pine Ridge NA *Wapello* (all SSP). Whitebreast Unit *Lucas* seems to be the hotspot for this species in Iowa with 85 found there 4 Jun (SSP).

Northern Waterthrush: All: 1 on 2 Jun at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (PH).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Reported from 12 counties, mostly in e Iowa but west to *Boone* (m.ob.). No one reported evidence of nesting.



Kentucky Warbler: Reported from 13 counties in the se half of Iowa (m.ob.), all within its usual Iowa range. The 25 at Croton Unit *Lee* (RIC) was the most reported from any site. Evidence of nesting was found at Davis City *Decatur* (JRL), Pioneer Ridge NA *Wapello* (SSP), and Brinton Timber *Washington* (SSP). An adult was seen feeding a young cowbird at Croton Unit *Lee* (SSP).



Mourning Warbler: All: A male 4 Jun

near the Lucas Unit, Stephens SF *Lucas* (SSP).

Hooded Warbler: One or 2 were found at L Macbride *Johnson*, Donnellson Unit *Lee*, Chariton Unit, Stephens SF *Lucas*, Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe*, and Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (m.ob.).

Yellow-breasted Chat: A few were found in *Appanoose*, *Lee*, *Linn*, *Polk*, *Van Buren*, and *Warren* (m.ob.), all within the usual range of this species. One 2 Jun at Sylvan Runkle SPre *Monona* (TLu) was outside its usual range. No one mentioned evidence of nesting.

Summer Tanager: Most reports were from *Decatur*, *Fremont*, *Lee*, *Louisa*, *Lucas*, and *Van Buren* in s Iowa (m.ob.) where it is expected. Reports 16 Jun, 14 Jul at Holst SF *Boone* (SSP) and 15 Jun at Stone SP *Woodbury* (*TLu) were away from that core range.

Scarlet Tanager: A few were reported from 32 counties covering much of Iowa (m.ob.). Evidence of nesting was reported from Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (KLP, SSP), Indian Bluffs WMA *Jones* (SSP, KLP), Whitebreast Unit *Lucas* (SSP), and Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (SSP).

Eastern Towhee: Reported from 20 counties scattered across most of Iowa (m.ob.), there were no reports from the Loess Hills where it is common. The only reports of nesting were from Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (SSP, KLP) and Indian Bluffs WMA *Jones* (KLP, SSP).

Clay-colored Sparrow: All: 1 on 10 Jun at Ocheyedan Pits RA *Osceola* (LAS), 2 on 26 Jun at Kettleon Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (MPr), 2 on 27 Jun at Hurlburt WA *Kossuth* (MCK), and 7 including 3 juveniles 13, 15 Jul at Caylor Prairie *Dickinson* (MHB).

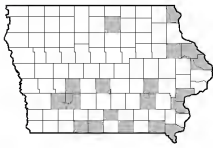
Lark Sparrow: A few were reported from 16 counties scattered across Iowa

(m.ob.). It probably was underreported from the Loess Hills where it is fairly common. Evidence of nesting was provided from Lime Creek Cons. A *Cerro Gordo* (RGo) and Hitaga Sand Ridge *Linn* where an adult was feeding a young cowbird (BSc).

Savannah Sparrow: 2 males 26 Jul at Pinchey Bottoms *Marion* (AB) were fairly far south.

Grasshopper Sparrow: This species was reported in 24 counties from throughout Iowa and seemed to be fairly common in some areas. Evidence of nesting was reported from *Adair* (SSP) and Kellerton *BCA Ringgold* (SSP).

Henslow's Sparrow: This secretive species was reported from 19 counties mainly in s and e Iowa but as far west as *Cass* (m.ob.). Although no evidence of nesting was mentioned, most birds were probably territorial and nesting.



Swamp Sparrow: Reported from *Cerro Gordo*, *Greene*, *Hancock*, and *Winneshiek* (PH, AB, MHB, DC), all within its usual Iowa range.

Blue Grosbeak: Reports from *Crawford*, *Fremont*, *Lyon*, *Monona*, and *Woodbury* (AB, LJP, BKP, BJU, MPr, GLV, TLu) were all in w Iowa where this species is expected. Different individuals seen 30 Jun and 4 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) were well east of its usual range.

PAINTED BUNTING: The male that arrived at Brookside P Ames *Story* in early May (Kenne 2007) remained there well into July with reports 14 Jul (SSP) and 21 Jul (WO).

Dickcissel: Few comments but apparently it was fairly common with reports of 83 in *Polk* (BE) and 93 in *Woodbury* (GLV). Carter noted that it was scarce in ne Iowa.

Bobolink: Reported from 20 counties,

mostly in n Iowa (m.ob.) but south to *Monroe* (CM). Only Carter commented, noting that it was scarce in ne Iowa.

Eastern Meadowlark: One 29 Jun in the Floyd River Greenbelt *Woodbury* (BFH) was at the edge of its usual range.

Western Meadowlark: One 9 Jun on the sod farms near Davenport *Scott* (WMZ) was east of its usual range.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: For the third straight year, none nested this summer at Muskrat Sl *Jones* (BSc), a historic nesting site (Dinsmore 2004).

Great-tailed Grackle: Few reports. A brood at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC) was a first for ne Iowa.

Brown-headed Cowbird: The following reports of cowbird brood parasitism are of interest: Red-eyed Vireo at Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (SSP), Cerulean Warbler at Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (SSP), Ovenbird at Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (SSP), Scarlet Tanager at Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (SSP), Indigo Bunting at Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* and Indian Bluffs WMA *Jones* (KLP, SSP), and Northern Cardinal at Indian Bluffs WMA *Jones* (SSP) and Brush Creek Canyon SPre *Fayette* (SSP). See also accounts for Kentucky Warbler and Lark Sparrow.

Orchard Oriole: From 1–9 were reported in 25 counties scattered across most of the state (m.ob.). Evidence of nesting was provided from near Davis City *Decatur* (JRL), near Cresco *Howard* (DC), Swamp White Oak Pre *Muscatine* (SSP), Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and Pioneer Ridge NA *Wapello* (SSP).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: 1 on 18 Jun in *Johnson* (CRE) and 2 on 12 Jul at Swamp White Oak Pre *Muscatine* (SSP) were near the edge of this species' gradually expanding range.

COMMENT

I received about 1,750 reports from more than 60 people, most of whom submitted their material on the web site. This helps reduce errors in data entry as well as saving me considerable time. Thank you all for your cooperation and for entering your reports. Although reports were down somewhat from 2005 and 2006, this is the third most material I have ever received for the summer season. With plans to start a second Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project in 2008, I expect that more people will be in the field and reports of nesting species will increase greatly next year. I received no reports of Swainson's Hawk, King Rail, Barn Owl, or Brown Creeper, species that have often been found in recent years. All four probably nest in Iowa every year but in very low numbers. Again this year I have added maps for a few species that have a limited range in Iowa. Hopefully the maps help provide readers with an idea of where those species limits appear to be and will encourage them to search for those species in other areas.

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Red-necked Phalarope male, Crystal Lake, Hancock, 12 July 2007. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



*Juvenile American Kestrel along a county road, Marion, 17 June 2007. Photograph by Jay Gil-
liam, Norwalk, IA.*



*Black Tern, Eagle Lake, Hancock, 7 July 2007.
Photograph by Paul Hertz, Mason City, IA.*



*Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Jester Park, Polk, 31
July 2007. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Nor-
walk, IA.*



*Spotted Sandpiper, Four Mile Lake Wildlife Management Area, Em-
met, 13 July 2007. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.*



Juvenile Clay-colored Sparrow, Cayler Prairie State Preserve, Dickinson, 15 July 2007. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Hooded Warbler, female, Lake McBride Recreation Area, Johnson, 17 June 2007. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Rufous Hummingbird, near Ledges SP, Boone, 28 July 2007. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Great-crested Flycatcher, Woodbury, 9 July 2007. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Kentucky Warbler, Donnellson Unit, Shimek SE, Lee, 7 July 2007. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Grasshopper Sparrow bringing food to nest, Lucas, 10 June 2007. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Worm-eating Warbler, Croton Unit, Shimek SE, Lee, 7 July 2007. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Northern Bobwhite along gravel road, Lucas, 10 June 2007. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

Bohumil Shimek: An Early Iowa Ornithologist

Thomas H. Kent

Bohumil (*Bo' Ha Meal*) Shimek (Figure 1) was born on 25 June 1861 south of Shueyville in Johnson County, Iowa and died in Iowa City on 30 January 1937, age 75. He was one of four famous early professors of natural history at the University of Iowa along with Samuel Calvin (geology), Thomas Macbride (botany), and Charles C. Nutting (zoology). Although his major field was botany, he also made many contributions to geology and zoology (especially mollusks). He is best known for proving how loess deposits in Iowa were formed.

Shimek is recognized today for the Shimek State Forest in Lee County and Shimek Elementary School in Iowa City. He is not recognized for his ornithological activity—there is no mention of this in the various obituaries, newspaper articles, and manuscripts in the Special Collections at the University of Iowa Libraries. My only clue that he may have had an interest in birds is “Mr. Shimek’s Report” in the *History of Johnson County* (Anon. 1883), which is a list of the birds of that county. While searching the internet (I do not remember what for), I discovered that there were four notebooks of Shimek’s bird records among his other collections at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. I was able to obtain copies of these small notebooks, and they provided the stimulus for this report.

Shimek’s bird records are from 1879 and 1880. The only other Iowa residents reporting from Iowa before this were William Savage beginning in 1855 (Kent 2000), H. W. Parker (1871), and T. M. Trippe (1873). I start with a brief biography of Shimek through his school years, followed by an analysis of his bird records, and conclude with a brief summary of his later accomplishments. The most extensive information about Shimek is contained in “Notes for a Biography of Bohumil Shimek. Prepared by Henry S. Conard, Sc.D., Visiting Research Professor of Botany under the direction of The Graduate College, The State University of Iowa, April 1945 to March 1946” (Conard 1946). Another significant account of Shimek was written as part of a series on notable professors (Loehwing 1947). Willard L. Boyd’s remarks at the dedication of Shimek School (Boyd 1970) are among many clippings and notes collected at the University of Iowa Library.

Francis and Maria Theresa Shimek, who were Czechs, left Bohemia in 1856 to avoid political persecution. Bohumil was born in a log cabin in 1861. His mother died of tuberculosis in 1866 just a week after the family moved to Iowa City. His father, a cobbler, remarried in 1875, became paralyzed in 1878, and died in 1880. Bohumil became partly self-supporting at age 11 (1872) by selling fish that he caught in the river and fully self-supporting at age 16 (1877), mainly by collecting botanical and zoological specimens for classes at the university. He attended Iowa City grade school and high school (graduated 1878) and the State University of Iowa (Civil Engineering 1883, Master of Science 1903).

Shimek left detailed diaries of birds seen from November 1879 to December 1880, a



Figure 1. Bohumil Shimek, oil painting by Cloy Kent in 1963; painted from photos of Shimek. Courtesy of the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, Iowa City.

pattern of record keeping that he continued for the rest of his life (but not for birds). He was said to arise early and to walk long distances. Conard (1946) states that, "By 1883 had collected 100 specimens of mammals, 2,000 birds, 100 reptiles, 800 batrachia, 50,000 molluscas, 1,500 flowering plants, and 1,000 ferns, largely for the University." His burst of ornithological activity (783 individual sightings by my count) occurred during his second and third college years. There is no record of how he learned birds, but he used terminology for common and scientific names correctly for the time. He would have had access to the major ornithological books by Wilson, Nuttall, Baird, and Coues at the university. It is likely that Shimek was most influenced by Thomas Macbride, the botanist, who arrived at the university in 1878 (the same day Shimek became a freshman); Calvin, the geologist, came earlier (1872); and Nutting, the zoologist, came in 1886.

Shimek left four notebooks of bird records. The first (4.5" by 7.5") is labeled "Notes on birds which breed in Johnson Co." One or two pages each are used to list 80 species. Nesting data and/or first arrival dates, all from April–May 1879, are entered for 36 species.

The second notebook (3.0" by 5.5") is labeled "Notes of 1980." It comprises 58 pages of notes on nests from 21 May to 18 July.

The third notebook (3.5" by 5.5") is labeled "Bird Notes 1880." The first part is a numbered list of 47 species labeled "Birds Eggs 1880." Following the list, there are eight pages describing nests of various species.

The fourth notebook (3.0" by 5.5") starts with two pages of birds seen on 5 and 6 May followed by 10 pages titled "Notes on objects observed by me 1879" with notes from 31 [sic] November to 22 February [1880]. The remaining 55 pages are titled, "Notes on Ova &c Found in 1880," comprise diary entries from late February to 19 May 1880 including five pages of notes on flowers.

Shimek's only publication on birds is "Mr. Shimek's Report" (Anon. 1883). The introduction indicates that, "Bohumil Shimek, a student at the State University of Iowa, class of 1883, has made a special study of zoology and botany of Johnson county." . . . "Mr. Shimek stands very high in the esteem and confidence of Prof. Calvin, as a diligent, careful, thorough going and zealous student of science; and it is pleasant to record that the best study yet made of zoology of Johnson county has been by one of her own sons."

Although Shimek occasionally mentions birds that he shot, there are no entries in the museum's registration log for birds that he shot at that time. His only Johnson County

bird specimens at the university are three Red Crossbills and a Cooper's Hawk taken in 1887.

Shimek lived on the north side of Iowa City and birded north along the Iowa River. It is a challenge to match his place names with current ones. The catbird was the most commonly mentioned species. Many water-associated birds were not seen. He mentions 105 species in 110 birding days from 1 April 1879 to 18 May 1880. Although that number could easily be seen in one day now, the area that he could cover was limited. He does not mention using field glasses or reference books, and apparently did not have a mentor to teach him field identification.

Shimek recorded a few birds that cannot be found now: Ruffed Grouse, Greater Prairie-Chicken, and Whooping Crane. He did not see Wild Turkey, which is common now.

Positions held by Shimek after graduation from college included: County Surveyor (1883–1887); Iowa City High School teacher (1884–1888); University of Nebraska Instructor of Zoology (1888–1890); University of Iowa Instructor of Botany (1890–1895), Professor of Botany (1895–1937, Head 1914–1919, and Emeritus 1931–1937). He was instrumental in establishing the Lakeside Laboratory at Lake Okoboji and taught there in summers from 1909 to 1934.

Shimek's most noteworthy scientific accomplishment was proving that the loess soil deposits across Iowa were wind blown from western Iowa. That seems obvious now, but was not at the time. His analysis of the mollusks in the soil provided the convincing evidence. He traveled widely in Iowa, the United States, and to foreign countries.

Shimek was an exchange professor in Prague in 1914. After the war he received an honorary Ph.D. for his effort there. He worked hard for the independence of Czechoslovakia and supported his friend who became president.

In the 1930s, he lobbied for state acquisition of the land in Lee County that was later named Shimek State Forest. The current elementary school in Iowa City is actually the second one named after him.

Why was this great scientist's interest in birds so short-lived? Maybe his membership in the Iowa Ornithologists Union in 1932 is indicative of a latent interest.

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Neotropic Cormorant in Appanoose County

Ray Cummins and Tom Johnson

On 6 June 2007, Tom Johnson and I were birding southeastern Appanoose County, and we stopped to check Pool 8, which is on the west side of 300th Avenue between 560th and 600th Streets (<<http://www.iowabirds.org/places/sedan.asp>>). Pool 8 is a private 60+-acre shallow marsh surrounded by grassy vegetation with some cattails. The Chariton River is just west of the marsh. The marsh has many dead trees on the west shore and in the open water. It is a diverse habitat for a variety of birds.

As we scoped the pool, we discovered a small, short, slim cormorant sitting beside a Double-crested Cormorant. As we observed the field marks, they all were those of a Neotropic Cormorant. The neotropic's bill was shorter and thinner than that of the Double-crested Cormorant. The throat patch of the Double-crested Cormorant was big and extended onto the lores, but was much smaller on the neotropic and did not extend onto the lores. The neotropic had a slightly darker body color. In flight, the size difference was even more noticeable. The neotropic's head and neck was the same length as the tail. The head and neck of the Double-crested Cormorant was long and the tail was short. After about fifteen minutes the two cormorants departed to the west.

The Neotropic Cormorant was the first sighting for Appanoose County and the third record for Iowa. The neotropic was seen with several Double-crested Cormorants by many birders at Pool 8 for several weeks after 6 June.

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Birding Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest

Robert I. Cecil

The Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest includes some 1,700 acres in three tracts in Lee County. The largest and eastern-most of these, known to Iowa birders and hereafter in this report as "The Croton Unit," consists of middle-maturity, deciduous forest; small riparian corridors; conifer plantings; and overgrown pasture encompassing about 900

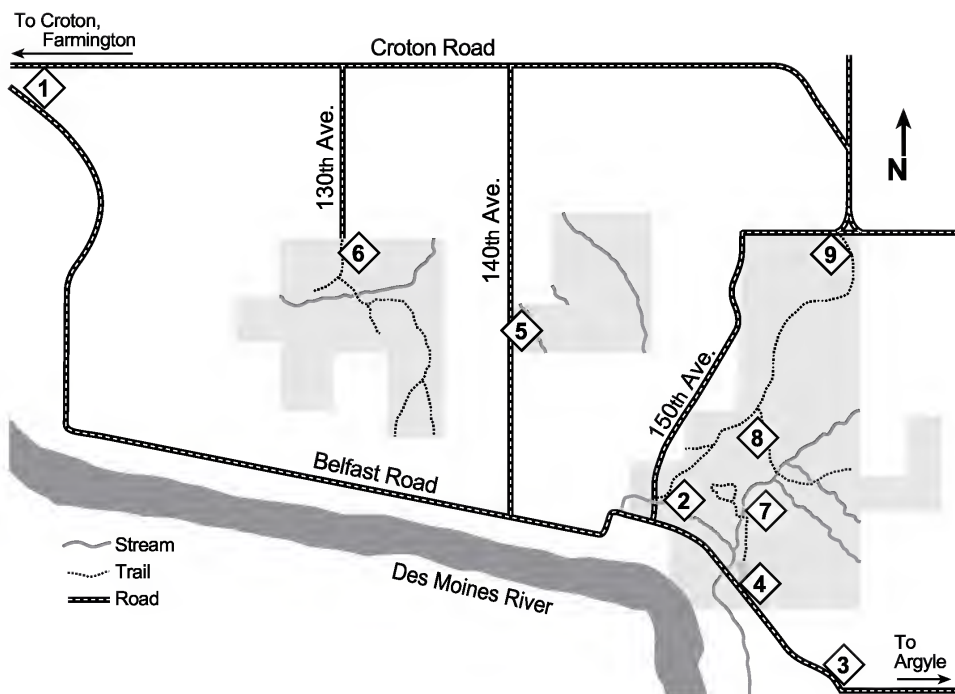


Figure 1. Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest: (1) fork of Belfast Road from Croton Road, (2) small bridge, (3) junkyard, (4) small parking area, (5) central tract of Croton Unit, (6) western tract of Croton Unit, (7) trail to left across stream, (8) fork in trail to the right, (9) obscure north trail entrance.

acres. The smaller units generally consist of similar habitats, although in different proportions.

In the 15 years since the first birding guide to the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest was published (Cecil 1993), many things have changed, but one has not. It remains one of Iowa's premier birding locations, offering not only bird species that are scarce or absent in the rest of the state, but numerous other southeastern Iowa plant and animal specialties.

ROUTE FROM WEST TO CROTON UNIT

When visiting the area from the west, most birders go through the historic Van Buren County seat of Keosauqua. From there, continue south on Highway 1 to Highway 2. Go east to the small town of Farmington in eastern Van Buren County, and take the first road to the right on the north side of the Des Moines River bridge, which follows the river downstream. Continue through the hamlet of Croton, location of the most northerly battle, such as it was, of the Civil War. To go to the main unit, turn right just past Croton at the **fork of Belfast Road from Croton Road** (Figure 1.1), following the river valley, but perhaps stopping at the intersection to listen for Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler in the sycamores and cottonwoods in the streambed. Continue along the river (watching for

Lark Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, and, with luck, a Blue Grosbeak) to the curve at the “town” of Belfast, of which only a single house on the north side of the road remains. A short distance farther is the riparian forest that comprises a portion of the largest unit and a **small bridge** (Figure 1.2).

ROUTE FROM NORTH-CENTRAL IOWA TO CROTON UNIT

The newly completed “Avenue of the Saints” has greatly eased access to and from northern and central Iowa. From Mt. Pleasant or Iowa City, it is south on Highway 218/27. At the exit of Highway 218 to Keokuk, continue on Highway 27/394, approaching the Missouri border, and take the Argyle exit between mile markers four and five. Backtrack a short distance to the little town of Argyle, then go left (west) at the post office and church. Continue straight for about 2.5 miles to where the road begins to wind through a tiny settlement and **Iowa’s most famous junkyard** (Figure 1.3). Stop here in the spring or early summer and listen and watch carefully for what is sometimes the state’s only Bewick’s Wren(s), which has managed to generate an isolated dot on the range maps of modern field guides. Just beyond is a **small parking area** (Figure 1.4) and entrance to the first and largest of the three units, the Croton Unit, also known in the local vernacular as “The Thousand Acres.”

BIRDING CHALLENGES IN CROTON UNIT

Another unchanging aspect of birding the Croton Unit is the challenge it presents to birders. It is undeveloped, having few trails and no picnic areas, restrooms, or campgrounds. Ticks are abundant during the spring and summer, and birders are strongly encouraged to use repellent and wear tall rubber boots which, according to personal experience, can cut tick transmission from forest to birder by 90%. Lone Star and American dog ticks predominate, but the more dangerous deer ticks may occur. Chiggers can be abundant in summer, especially in grass, but can also be discouraged with repellent. Poison ivy is ubiquitous. Birders who are sensitive to it are encouraged to know the leaf and to avoid it. If that’s not enough, groves of stinging nettle carpet areas of the lowland forest—entering such an area wearing shorts is a mistake that is never repeated. All Shimek Forest units are public hunting areas, but this should be of little concern because the best birding is during spring and summer. Wild Turkey hunters may be present well into spring, but are rarely encountered. Finally, birders new to the area are often concerned about getting lost. A good rule of thumb for the largest and most visited tract, the Croton Unit, is to follow a stream downstream. They all ultimately lead back to the **parking lot** (Figure 1.4) or, if you strike out across country, to **the small bridge** (Figure 1.2). If exploring the **other two tracts** (Figures 1.5 and 1.6), it is advisable to have a good sense of direction, a GPS unit, or a compass.

BIRDING TRAILS IN CROTON UNIT

To enter the largest and easternmost of the three tracts (the Croton Unit), park in the **small parking area** (at the bottom of the hill on the north side of the road) (Figure 1.4), which most birders use. Before arriving at the parking area, on the immediate left just beyond the entrance sign, is an area that once was accessible but has become an impenetrable

tangle of raspberries and multiflora roses among a stand of introduced white pines. This **parking area** (Figure 1.4) farther down the hill, however, provides the most well-known and productive access to this unit; in recent years, 10 warbler species have nested or been suspected of nesting here, and most nest annually. In addition, the Croton Unit is noted for vireos, Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, and other woodland species. In spring, when most birders seek the area's specialties, the path accessed by crossing under the horizontal wooden pole-gate at the parking lot is easily passable because the weeds are not developed or are trampled down by seekers of morel mushrooms, Wild Turkeys, or birds. Just before the **trail jogs to the left across the stream** (Figure 1.7), the path will cross a usually shallow stream and then quickly angle off to the north again. The parking lot and this short stretch of trail can produce Acadian Flycatcher, Carolina Wren, Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated and Worm-eating Warblers, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and both tanagers; more occasionally, Hooded Warbler. From here, the once well-defined trails have become vague and overgrown but lead up the two main ridges to the left (west), reconnecting just before the single trail comes to a large planting of maturing White Pines, now pretty much a birdless monoculture. If you make it this far, you can turn right (north) at the pines and continuing through them and some thickets to the ATV trails described below.

A second option for birding from the parking lot is to simply follow the stream northward from the **first stream crossing** (Figure 1.7)—rubber boots are highly recommended. For the most part, the walking is relatively easy although sometimes you will need to clamber over fallen trees or bypass log-jammed hairpin turns by cutting through *Equisetum* or around multiflora rose thickets. This stream or its branches will take you past some excellent habitats for the region's specialties as well as more expected southern Iowa species.

A third option for birding the Croton Unit is not well known to birders. A small number of clandestine trails are kept open by ATV riders. While their use is prohibited in state parks, and although they have caused localized erosion problems, there seems to be little abuse of the adjacent habitat with the exception of occasional beer cans, and they do create excellent walking trails. They are best accessed from **the small bridge** (Figure 1.2). The trail is not visible from 150th Avenue, the road on the west side of the Croton Unit. Walk to the Shimek State Forest sign just off the road, and then go on past it and look for the trail that heads rather steeply up the hill. After trudging to the top, you will come to the far end of the pine plantation noted above. This trail will continue for over two miles through excellent habitat ranging from middle maturity forest to old fields harboring Blue-winged Warbler and White-eyed Vireo. Kentucky Warbler, Ovenbird, and Eastern Towhee can be especially common, but watch and listen also for Acadian Flycatcher and Worm-eating Warbler. Hiking north about a mile along this trail, you will come to a **fork to the right** (Figure 1.8). This goes down to the main stream that can be followed back to the **parking lot** (Figure 1.4); you can then follow the often birdy Belfast Road back to the **small bridge** (Figure 1.2). Remaining on the main trail to the north will take you through additional forest and old fields, finally ending at an **obscure entrance** (Figure 1.9) to the road at the north edge of the tract.

For those birders reluctant to venture too deeply into the forest, a good sampling of the area's birds can be found along Belfast Road between the **parking lot** (Figure 1.4) and

the **small bridge** (Figure 1.2), and north of the small bridge where sycamores line the roadside. Watch and listen for White-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow-breasted Chat, and other good birds. Of special interest to most birders is Worm-eating Warbler. A good location, albeit on private property, is the deep ravine across the road from the **parking lot** (Figure 1.4).

OTHER CROTON UNIT TRACTS

The remaining two tracts of the Croton Unit are virtually unvisited by birders. Note that the maps on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources web site are correct regarding their respective configurations, but misleading regarding access and the presence of hiking trails <<http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/shimek.html>>. Each unit has only one access that does not require crossing private property. Trails range from nonexistent at the **central tract** (Figure 1.5) to pretty good at the **western tract** (Figure 1.6). Regarding their respective locations, it is probably best to refer to the map (Figure 1), but both are easy to access from the largest unit or from the town of Croton.

Access to the **central tract** (Figure 1.5) is a short section of frontage along 140th Avenue, which is between Croton and Belfast Roads—a little pull-in offers limited parking. The young woodland is composed of shagbark hickory; black cherry; and shingle, Chinquapin, and other oaks, with an often impenetrable understory of raspberries, multiflora rose, and other thorny shrubs. Trails are inconspicuous and short and, overall, birding the area is difficult. The young forests can yield the more expected woodland species and the large, dense overgrown pastures adjoining 140th Avenue south of the parking area might be checked for White-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

The **western tract** (Figure 1.6) is at the dead end of 130th Avenue off Croton Road, about 1.6 miles east of Croton. A trail continues south into the area, soon coming to a fork. The right (west) fork leads to a large wooded area that has recently had a selective timber harvest; this has opened the forest but rendered the area almost impassible due to fallen branches and treetops. The area is still worth checking for woodland species, however. The left (east) fork crosses a small stream, soon splitting again with a fork to the left that goes through one of the area's dominant habitats—large areas of eastern red cedar thickets. The other fork goes straight and leads through young deciduous woodland and then to a small stand of young white pines. These pines probably offer southeastern Iowa's most promising location for Prairie Warbler, at least for three or four years until the trees become too mature to appeal to the species. The area with the pines is part of a much larger section of old fields in various stages of regrowth. The cedar thickets should also be checked for Prairie Warblers—Shane Patterson discovered one here in the summer of 2006. Be alert also for White-eyed Vireo and Blue-winged Warbler. Depending on the Iowa Department of Resources's plans for this tract, it will be interesting to watch this area's maturation and the changing species to which it appeals.

OTHER SOUTHEASTERN IOWA BIRDING AREAS

Southeastern Iowa is rich in birding options. Another spring and summer birding favorite is **Lacey-Keosauqua State Park** just across the Des Moines River from Keosauqua; see "Birding Lacey Keosauqua State Park" (Sandrock 1986). While the Croton Unit is not

especially productive during late fall and winter, nearby **Pool 19 of the Mississippi River** is one of Iowa's premier fall and winter birding hotspots; see "Birding Pool 19 in Winter" (Dooley 2004) and updates on Lock and Dam 19 at <www.iowabirds.org>.

Thanks to Stephen J. Dinsmore, Mike Dooley, Chris Edwards, and Shane Patterson for their review of this article, and thanks especially to John Cecil for his invaluable assistance during four days of rediscovering this Iowa treasure.

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Book Review: *Speciation in Birds*

Stephen J. Dinsmore

Price, T. 2007. *Speciation in Birds*. Roberts and Company, Greenwood Village, CO. 470 pp.

Speciation in Birds is a comprehensive reference for the origin and mechanisms of avian speciation and its implications on such varied topics as behavior, song evolution, and hybridization. This is a well-written yet technical book, and I believe that even readers with only a passing knowledge of ornithology will benefit from reading it. The book is beautifully illustrated and replete with excellent (and surprisingly current) examples to support much of the text. In addition, short appendices were included at the end of some chapters to add useful information on many of the techniques cited in the text.

Chapter 1 begins with a nice discussion of the definition of a species. Birders will immediately identify with this section as it points out what many of us already know—most species are readily classified by a combination of plumage characters, voice, habitat requirements, range, and a host of others. The discussion of contemporary approaches to classifying species (e.g., the phylogenetic species concept) is particularly interesting, and may answer questions about the recent spate of species "splits." The chapter ends with a concise summary (Appendix 1.1) of molecular techniques and their application to classifying bird species, a must-read for those lacking a basic understanding of these tools.

The bulk of the text is devoted to understanding mechanisms for and patterns of speciation in birds. Chapter 2 introduces basic concepts of geographic isolation and how

this relates to speciation. Birders will find this chapter interesting as it discusses isolation (island endemics), locations with multiple barriers (elevational gradients in mountain ranges), the reasons for high diversity in tropical ecosystems, and much more. The Eastern and Western Meadowlark species pair will be a familiar example in this chapter and illustrates how both the pattern and timing of isolation lead to speciation, even in the presence of continued hybridization. This leads to a discussion of geographic variation in birds (Chapter 3), which is a topic I find fascinating. There is a nice section on natural selection and genetic drift followed by a longer section on factors that retard geographic variation. I learned that the number of subspecies for a particular species is negatively related to natal dispersal distance. Thus, individuals of species with longer natal dispersal distances can keep the population mixed over a large area, minimizing the chances for divergence into subspecies.

Chapters 4 and 5 introduce particular types of speciation in birds. Both chapters were short, yet extremely interesting. Chapter 6 examined large-scale patterns in avian species diversity. The real driver for bird diversity is plant diversity, which of course is a result of global weather patterns, elevation, proximity to water, etc. Areas with high plant diversity offer abundant niches for birds, including rare opportunities for specialists to radiate and persist. A map of estimated breeding bird diversity across the globe reveals that Iowa is a relative desert (~100 breeding species) compared to hotspots in western South America, East Africa, and Southeast Asia. The winner is a locale in Ecuador with a purported 845 breeding species! This map certainly suggests some places I should seriously consider for future birding trips.

Patterns of endemism are discussed in Chapter 8 and offer a rare look at species assemblages found on remote islands. One general pattern is that larger, more isolated islands have more endemics; honeycreepers in the Hawaiian Islands are but one example of this pattern. An explanation for the higher number of endemics on large, isolated islands is low extinction rates, which unfortunately has not been the case in Hawaii. This chapter also discusses the theory of island biogeography in detail, as well as a number of patterns observed in colonization and extinction rates through time. Chapters 9 and 10 cover the topic of social selection and provide considerable insight into the role of communication (e.g., vocalizations or plumage) in speciation. The detailed discussion of vocalizations (Chapter 10) provided a nice overview of the functions of song and geographic variation (dialects). The discussion of song and dialect variation in resident and migratory White-crowned Sparrows was particularly intriguing. Geographic variation in song is surprisingly widespread in birds, although many differences can only be “seen” on a sonogram. While I cannot think of any good examples entirely within Iowa, one that comes close is the song difference between eastern (breeds in Iowa) and western (breeds as close as central Nebraska) Marsh Wrens. Hmmm... a song difference, geographic isolation, and subtle plumage differences—could this be a future split?

The sections on species recognition (Chapter 13) and mate choice (Chapter 14) were interesting reading, especially for someone like me who has little background in these topics. The chapter on hybrid zones (Chapter 15) was one of the most interesting sections of this book and should be of great interest to birders. It begins with a definition of a hybrid index, which scores an individual's phenotype from 0 (like species A) to 1 (like species B)

with hybrids having intermediate scores. Some species pairs found in Iowa have relatively low rates of hybridization (Eastern and Western Meadowlarks) while others have higher rates (Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles). There are many ways to describe both the width and stability of a hybrid zone and, in some cases, the movement rate of the zone (the Black-capped/Carolina Chickadee zone has moved north ~100 km in the last 100 years). This chapter concludes with a lengthy appendix listing known hybrid zones throughout the world. The text closes with a useful summary (Chapter 17) of the main points of the text.

Speciation in Birds is at present the best reference for understanding the rapidly changing subject of bird speciation. The text is nicely organized and builds from a broad and easy-to-understand introduction to more specialized topics for the dedicated scientist. Birders will find many of the chapters both interesting and informative and may venture out on their next birding trip with a different appreciation for each tick-mark on their checklist!

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Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall Business Meeting

27 October 2007

The Iowa Ornithologist's Union business meeting was held at the Best Western Motel in Ankeny. In attendance were John Rutenbeck, president; Paul Roisen, vice president; Robert Cecil, secretary; Tammy Hertzell, treasurer; board members John Bissell, Carolyn Fischer, Tim Humpal, and Bill Scheible; and members of the organization. The meeting was called to order at 2:15 P.M.

Secretary's Report. The minutes of the fall business meeting were approved as published in *IBL* 77(2):96–99.

President Rutenbeck noted that there were additions to the minutes regarding actions taken by e-mail prior to the business meeting. It was approved by the board to allocate an additional \$500 from the Ann Barker Memorial to place additional *Iowa Bird Life* issues in a searchable format on the organization's website, <www.iowabirds.org>. Also approved by the board was a motion to create a position of membership coordinator responsible for contacting members about renewal, following changes in membership numbers, and fol-

lowing up with non-renewing members. President Rutenbeck also noted that a follow-up of non-renewing members by board members and others resulted in only a small number of renewals and that the reasons given for not renewing were so varied that no conclusions could be drawn. Finally, President Rutenbeck reported that in late June 2007, the IOU received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service that it had not submitted Form 990 required of nonprofits. Tammy Hertzelt compiled the organization's fiscal data and submitted it along with a letter explaining that there had been a miscommunication between successive officers and that the organization had no intention of violating Internal Revenue Service regulations. During this period, the board discussed whether to communicate the problem to members, but decided to wait until the business meeting. A penalty of \$4,170 was levied for failure to submit Form 990 for three years. This penalty has been appealed in a letter prepared by Tammy and others. The problem originated because revenues within three years have recently exceeded \$25,000, triggering the requirement that that Form 990 be submitted. The membership thanked Tammy for her considerable effort in dealing with this situation.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Tammy Hertzelt distributed the Statement of Cash Flows for the periods ending 31 December 2006 and 26 October 2007. She noted that there was a deficit of \$6,420.05, primarily because of allocations to the Projects Committee and to the electronic archiving of *Iowa Bird Life* issues. As of 15 May 2007, the organization had \$10,574.21 in checking, \$66.93 in savings, and \$45,527.56 in its Treasured Certificate of Deposit. It was moved by Judy Garton and seconded by Hank Zaletel to accept the Treasurer's Report. All ayes, motion carried.

The membership coordinator report was provided by Tammy Hertzelt. The institutional membership is 35, and there are currently 508 members.

Breeding Bird Atlas Committee Report. Steve Dinsmore, chair, reported for the ad hoc committee that Chris Caster, Bruce Ehresman, Doug Harr, Jay Gilliam, Ann Johnson, Karen Kinkead, Nikki Nagl, and Karen Viste-Sparkman agreed to serve. The committee's purpose is to ascertain the breeding range of Iowa's nesting species, especially as related to the last atlas project. It is hoped that the project's field work will be completed within five years, and that the website enabling the data entry will be ready by next spring. The atlas blocks will include the 512 used during the first atlas project, and additional blocks from randomly selected sites in prairies, wetlands, etc., for a total of about 1,000 blocks. On-line GIS maps, and, hopefully, real-time data entry will assist surveyors so they can monitor the development of information for individual blocks.

This atlas project is proposed to differ from the first one by the use of on-line data entry, habitat descriptions of the respective blocks, and more focus on changes in breeding status rather than on breeding biology. Steve observed that if every IOU member participates in the project, it can be easily achieved in the five-year timeline.

Membership Committee Report. Karen Disbrow reported that the Membership Committee is reorganizing but is also developing talking points and posters to encourage people to join. Being sought are additional events at which to place the IOU display, as well as nature

events to be placed on the website calendar. The committee is also seeking to reduce its inventory of tee shirts, perhaps by selling them at a discount to local birding shops, and is working on a design for new shirts that will feature five bird species found in Iowa. Finally, they will encourage the giving of memberships as Christmas gifts and will thank those who do so.

Records Committee Report. Ann Johnson reported that the committee will meet on Sunday, 28 October 2007. Records are being reviewed promptly, with most completed for use in the next seasonal report. It was also reported that Mike Overton's term was completed and that a replacement member will be recommended to the board.

Publications Committee Report. Ann Johnson reported that members should submit Field Notes to Editor Kay Niyo regarding observations of unusual species, adding that publishing such reports is a main purpose of the organization. Ann also noted that the committee thought it should continue the *IOU News* as a paper publication for now, and that a new newsletter editor had been found. Before introducing the new editor, Ann and the membership thanked Paul Hertzell for his excellent editorship of the newsletter. Ann then announced Harley Winfrey will be the new *IOU News* editor, and that he will begin transitioning to the position at the start of 2008.

Projects Committee Report. Doug Harr briefly described the projects that had been supported, and as described in the spring 2007 *IBL*. The total cost of the projects was \$6,000. He also noted that the Winnebago County Conservation Board had offered to put up an IOU sign at the project site if we had one. It was also noted that no new funds had yet been allocated for support of new projects.

Library/Historical Committee Report. Hank Zaletel asked all members to save and submit published materials about the IOU and Iowa birding to him for archiving at Iowa State University. He also draws some information from the IOU listserv and Iowa newspapers. Walter Rosene's bird records were donated to the ISU archive, and some of his work may be published in *IBL*. Walter Rosene was a pioneer in Iowa birding.

Trip Committee Report. Mike Johnston reported that the next *IOU News* will have a section soliciting member preferences for times and locations of trips to be offered by the IOU. A California trip led by Jim Fuller and Bill Scheible is scheduled for March, and already, nine of ten places are taken. An in-state trip is planned for April, and under consideration is a trip into a part of the state opposite the IOU meeting. This is intended to provide an activity for members unable to travel across the state for a meeting, although concern was expressed that it could detract from meeting attendance. A January 2009 trip to Florida is also being considered.

Old Business. There was no old business.

New Business. It was noted by Jim Murdock that the host motel promoted a policy of

resource-preserving towel laundry, but did not seem to actually observe the policy. He therefore urged the IOU to adopt a policy requiring that host hotels have and observe such a policy. Rita Goranson moved and Karen Disbrow seconded that host hotels of IOU meetings must have a resource-reducing towel policy. Steve Dinsmore recommended that the organization should attempt but not require this. The change in wording was accepted. All ayes, motion carried.

Barb Edson reported that there were lots of tee shirts for sale at a \$5.00 clearance price. The membership thanked Barb and her husband Clyde Edson for their work with IOU sale items.

Spring Meeting. Paul Roisen reported that the spring 2008 IOU meeting had been tentatively set for 9–11 May, which is Mother's Day weekend. After brief discussion, Rita Goranson moved and Carolyn Fischer seconded that the IOU never hold a meeting on Mother's Day weekend. During discussion, Hank Zaletel noted that this had come up before and that 20 or 25 years ago there was an informal decision to not have meetings on Mother's Day. Steve Dinsmore offered a friendly amendment to the motion that "never" be replaced with "...IOU strive to not hold...." All ayes, motion carried.

Announcements. Carol Schumacher informed the members that there will be an Elder-hostel cruise on the Mississippi River, and that they are seeking a paid birding expert. Paul Roisen reported that the fall IOU meeting will be held on 13 September 2008 in Iowa Falls, and they are looking for speakers.

Adjournment. Bob Nickolson moved and Hank Zaletel seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Robert I. Cecil, secretary.

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board Meeting

27 October 2007

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union board meeting was held at the Best Western Motel in Ankeny. In attendance were John Rutenbeck, president; Paul Roisen, vice president; Robert Cecil, secretary; Tammy Hertzell, treasurer; board members John Bissell, Carolyn Fischer, Tim Humpal, and Bill Scheible. Also present were Karen Disbrow, Linda Donelson, Doug Harr, Doug Hunt, and Ann Johnson. The meeting was called to order at 4:50 P.M. President Rutenbeck reviewed the minutes of the spring 2007 board meeting.

Secretary's Report. The minutes of the spring board meeting were approved as published in *IBL* 77(2):99–104.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Tammy Hertzel had no updates to the information provided at the business meeting.

Membership Coordinator's Report. Doug Hunt reported that the Membership Committee had met and that there were 15 new members since the spring meeting and 49 new members since last fall. Linda Donelson suggested that there be beginner's birding field trip at IOU meetings.

Membership Committee Report. Karen Disbrow recommended that Shane Patterson be appointed to the committee. Tammy Hertzel so moved and Bill Scheible seconded. All ayes, motion carried. She also reported that the membership will be encouraged to give IOU memberships as gifts and to contribute to the maintenance of the listserv, and that a procedure for thanking contributors will be established by Tammy Hertzel, Doug Hunt, Ann Johnson, and Karen Disbrow. The upcoming tee shirt purchase was also discussed.

Projects Committee Report. Doug Harr had no updates for information provided at the business meeting, but did offer to develop an IOU sign should we decide to offer them to project funding recipients.

Publications/Records Committee Report. Ann Johnson recommended that Ross Silcock be appointed to the Records Committee beginning 2008, replacing Mike Overton whose term is expiring. Bill Scheible so moved and John Bissell seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Trip Committee Report. In addition to information provided at the business meeting, Mike Johnston suggested that the board should consider whether the Trip Committee should be made a standing committee. He also would like to have two additional members on the committee. Regarding in-state trips, Bill Scheible suggested that the IOU maintain and promote interaction with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation because they have numerous preserves, some of which offer excellent bird habitat.

Old Business. Tammy Hertzel reported that the appeal to the IRS regarding the penalty had been sent, and she is cautiously optimistic that it will be waived. Tammy was thanked for her efforts on this. There was discussion regarding the use of certificate of deposit income to fund the projects fund; this income totaled \$1,915 for the last three quarters of the year. It was moved by John Bissell and seconded by Bill Scheible to use certificate of deposit income to support projects selected by the Projects Committee. During discussion, it was questioned whether this was a permanent allocation or whether it had to be periodically re-approved. It was decided that such an action remained in effect until it was modified or repealed. On the motion, all ayes, carried.

New Business. President Rutenbeck and Tammy Hertzell notified the board members that a budget meeting will be held on 1 December 2007 at the home of Sharon Stilwell in West Des Moines. Additional information will be sent out shortly. Paul Roisen will finalize a date for the spring meeting. President Rutenbeck reported that Judy Garton and Mary Kuhlman will be reappointed to the Audit Committee, which is responsible for reviewing the IOU's financial information. Finally, it was noted that featured speaker Jim Rising refused any honorarium, and requested that, instead, it be donated to a worthy land acquisition project.

Adjournment. John Bissell moved and Bill Scheible seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All ayes, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert I. Cecil, secretary

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

Nesting Northern Harriers were featured in the lead article of the December 1957 *Iowa Bird Life*. A nest found by Fred Kent and Robert Vane near Swan Lake in Johnson County was carefully documented with several great photographs. It appeared that three young fledged from the nest.

Woodward Brown provided a useful summary of Christmas Bird Counts in Iowa from 1937–1956. The number of counts per year ranged from 9 to 22, and from 51 to 88 species were found. Twenty species were found only in a single year and 29 were found all 20 years. Brown offered several comments on how the counts might be improved.

A shorter article by Peter Petersen and William Sears provided the arrival, peak, and departure dates for 40 species of waterfowl and shorebirds at Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County. Another short article by Martin Grant described how he caught a Least Bittern in a butterfly net in Emmet County, providing several birders a chance to study this species up close.

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Compiled by James J. Dinsmore

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Spring 2008: 9–11 May 2008, Oskaloosa

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Upland Sandpiper, one of seven Upland Sandpipers found within a quarter-mile on a gravel road, Lucas, 10 June 2007. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Pine Warbler, one of pair found in Donnellson Unit, Shimek SF, Lee, 7 July 2007. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

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